

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 08846 291537Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 SCCT-02 IO-14 DPW-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01

/158 W

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R 291415Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0288

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GER(BY POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 8846

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ET PINS PINT

SUBJECT: AMNESTIES AND OTHER ACTIONS RELATING TO  
POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ETHIOPIA

REFS: (A) STATE 155264; (B) ADDIS 8404; (C) ADDIS 3724;  
AND 4515; (D) ADDIS 8566 PARA 3; (E) ADDIS 7308 AND A-160

1. JULY 28/29 ETHIOPIAN RADIO BROADCASTS (CONTENTS BELIEVED  
AVAILABLE TO DEPT THROUGH FBIS) REPORT THAT ON INITIATIVE AFCC  
EMPEROR GRANTED "FULL AMNESTY" TO SEVEN ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL  
PRISONERS (ARRESTED PRIOR TO FALL OF AKLILU CABINET). RADIO  
STATES FURTHER THAT COMMISSION FORMED IN MININT UNDER MILITARY  
AEGIS TO WHICH APPEALS MAY BE DIRECTED BY INDIVIDUALS WHO CON-  
SIDERING THEY BEING DETAINED ON POLITICAL GROUNDS (CONTEXTUALLY  
PERSONS OTHER THAN THOSE ARRESTED BY MILITARY SINCE FALL OF  
AKLILU CABINET). BROADCAST ASSERTS THAT INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED  
BELIEVED BE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS REMAINING IN DETENTION (FROM  
AKLILU ERA) WHOSE CRIMES NOT RPT NOT SUCH AS TO JEOPARDIZE  
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 08846 291537Z

NATIONAL UNITY (REF D).

2. AMONG SEVEN WE NOTE: (A) BG TADESSE BIRU, LEADER 1966 GALLA REVOLT WHOSE RECENT ACTIVITIES TOUCHED UPON IN REF C. (B) DEJ. ALULA BEKELE, A TIGRE (EX-MINSTATE IN MININT; CHIEF GENERAL STAFF TERRITORIAL ARMY; AWRAJA GOVERNOR IN SHOA AND HARRARGE; ADDIS DEPUTY MAYOR) CONDEMNED IN 1971 TO SEVEN YEARS' IMPRISONMENT FOR EMBEZZLEMENT. ALULA, HOWEVER, TO FACE NEW, SIMILAR CHARGES UPON HIS RELEASE. (C) LT. BEKELE SEGU, TWICE JAILED FOR PARTICIPATION IN 1960 AND '64 PLOTS WHO TWICE ESCAPED IMPRISONMENT - - LAST TIME ALLEGEDLY WITH HELP FROM ENDALKACHEW MAKONNEN. (D) GETACHEW MARU, RESPECTED AMHARA STUDENT ACTIVIST AND EX-SECGEN USUAA.

3. COMPLEX OF MEASURES ALSO COVERS OTHERS. SOME ARE GRANTED EASIER CONDITIONS OF DETENTION (JAIL IN ADDIS RATHER THAN PROVINCES); THREE ARE RELEASED BECAUSE ALLEGEDLY HELD WITHOUT TRIAL; FOUR HAD SENTENCES SHORTENED, AND CASES OF 18 AWAITING TRIAL ON POLITICAL GROUNDS( BUT STILL AT LIBERTY ) WERE DISCHARGED. COMMENT: MOST PERSONS MENTIONED ARE UNKNOWN TO US. SOME HAVE MOSLEM NAMES BUT THEIR ORIGINS REMAIN OBSCURE. ASSERTION END PARA 1 ABOVE THAT MEASURE COVERS ALL "POLITICALS" REMAINING IN DETENTION FROM EARLIER ERA OTHER THAN DELICATE CATEGORY OF PEOPLE HELD FOR JEOPARDIZING NATIONAL UNITY (E.G., ERITREAN REBELS) WOULD SEEM GO FAR TOWARD SATISFYING AFCC'S AMNESTY PLEDGE PER REF E. END COMMENT.

4. EMBASSY BEGINNING ACCUMULATE INDICATIONS OF TIGHTENING DETENTION REGIME OF PERSONALITIES ARRESTED BY MILITARY SINCE LAST FEBRUARY (CF REF A). IT THUS ALLEGED THAT FAMILY ACCESS TO DETAINEES MORE STRINGENTLY CONTROLLED (NO PRIVACY) AND PRISONERS' ACCESS TO MEDIA (PRESS-RADIO) BEING CURTAILED. HOWEVER, NOTWITHSTANDING FOREGOING, WE BELIEVE THAT REF B INFO PROVIDED IN THIS CONTEXT REMAINS GENERALLY VALID AT THIS TIME.  
WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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